

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 SY-07 FBO-01 NIC-01 SCI-06 IO-12 SSO-00 INRE-00

RSR-01 /130 W

----- 046794

P 282126 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1476/

USAEC GERMANTOWN MD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2140

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON ATUCHA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

REF: USDAO/ BUENOS AIRES MESSAGE 236 DTG 272025 Z MAR 73

1. SUMMARY: ON AFTERNOON MARCH 25, GROUP OF TERRORISTS FROM LEFT WING PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) ATTACKED POLICE DETACHMENT LOCATED OUTSIDE ENCLOSURE OF ATUCHA NUCLEAR POWER STATION OVERPOWERING GUARDS AND ESCAPING WITH ARMS, AFTER ENTERING PLANT COMPOUND AND PAINTING SLOGANS ON OUTSIDE WALLS. TWO GUARDS INJURED BY GUN FIRE IN SUBSEQUENT FIRE FIGHT, BUT LIVES NOT BELIEVED TO BE IN DANGER. TERRORISTS DID NOT ENTER REACTOR BUILDING, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD EASILY HAVE DONE SO, AND CONSEQUENTLY, NO DAMAGE OR LOSS OCCURRED TO REACTOR, STILL UNDERGOING PRE- STARTUP TEST OPERATIONS, OF TO REACTOR MATERIALS (HEAVY WATER AND NATURAL URANIUM) STORED IN BUILDING. END SUMMARY.

2. AT 2:15 PM ON SUNDAY, GROUP OF ABOUT 15 TERRORISTS OF ERP ASSAULTED POLICE DETACHMENT WHICH PROVIDES GUARD SERVICE TO ATUCHA NUCLEAR POWER STATION LOCATED 60 MILES NORTHEAST OF BUENOS AIRES ON PARANA RIVER. GROUP OVERPOWERED GUARDS AND CONFISCATED ARMS, THEN ENTERED PLANT EXCLUSION AREA, LOWERED ARGENTINE FLAG AND RAISED ERP FLAG, AND PAINTED SLOGANS ON
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OUTSIDE WALLS. GROUP THEN FLED, BUT WERE INTERING TO THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION, TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENT SECRETARIAT AS A UNIT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA;

2. FURTHER DECIDES TO ENTRUST THAT SECRETARIAT WITH THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS, AMONG OTHERS:

(A) TO EVALUATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA;

(B) TO CO- ORDINATE, FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION, THE VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE PROGRAMMES PREPARED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT;

(C) TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION.

3. ALSO DECIDES THAT THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT SHALL CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD AND DECIDE HOW IT CAN BE APPLIED IN PRACTICE, AND SHALL ALSO ASSIST IN TRAINING SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL;

4. REQUESTS THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE- MENTIONED PROPOSALS, TO PROMOTE MULTINATIONAL AND BILATERAL CO- OPERATION WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL

ASSISTANCE TO THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES CONCERNED WITH THESE PROBLEMS;

5. FURTHER REQUESTS THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MEMBER STATES, TO ASSIST IN THE FORMATION OF INTERMINISTERIAL BODIES DEALING WITH THE SOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS;

6. ALSO REQUESTS THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, IN THE DISCHARGE OF ITS FUNCTIONS, TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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PROTECTING ECOSYSTEMS WHICH HAVE NOT SUFFERED DIRECT OR INDIRECT DAMAGE. END QUOTE.
BURNS

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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